

Milford Recreation Commission  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Attendees:**

Walter Smith  
Joan Dargie  
Scott Hembrow

Claudia Lemaire  
Heather Romeri

Nicole Banks  
Liz Snell

Rick King  
Nicole Banks

**Minutes:**

Joan makes a motion to approve the minutes for the Jan. 16 and Jan. 30 meetings as amended, Heather seconds, a unanimous vote was made.

**Appointments:**

Kevin Federico, Dan Ayotte of the MCAA

Kevin Federico made supporting arguments to forego field fees for the MCAA, expressing concern for the survival of the organization and membership dissatisfaction. He also asked for a list of what in-kind services were needed. The work on a softball field at Kaley Park was mentioned as a potential project.

Mr. Federico also forwarded complaints of MCAA members believing they were being double charged for the use of the fields as they pay taxes for this purpose. Nicole Banks explained the rationale behind the request for field fees and the need for repairs and maintenance. Instead of putting the entire bill on taxpayers, those who use the facilities should contribute more for their upkeep.

Walter Smith explained the commission made its decision in the January meeting to waive 80 percent of the field fees for in-kind services and incorporate a 20 percent non-waivable portion be applied for unavoidable expenses involved with the upkeep of existing fields and the much needed expansion of new fields. The commission based its January decision on information that if the plan was in place last year, it would have cost the MCAA \$2,860. Rick King, a candidate for alternate commission member and MCAA director of softball said according to the field reservations he made for the 2013 season the cost would be almost \$3,000 for just spring softball.

Mr. Federico asks for a complete waiver of field fees, stating the MCAA will not pay the town on principle. He added that if the commission decided to go ahead with the current fee structure the MCAA would take the matter up with the Board of Selectmen. Walter Smith proposed the two groups work together and form a five step plan that included:

1. Form and in-kind capital improvement plan.
2. Have a meeting with the Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, DPW, and MCAA to work out what needed to be done and what role the MCAA could take in those projects.
3. Establish a dollar amount that represents the MCAA's contributions.
4. Create a multi-year agreement so the issue doesn't resurface every year.
5. Form a fund-raising partnership to benefit both organizations.

**Motion: Walter Smith made a motion to postpone for one month charging MCAA the 20 percent non-waivable field fees and establish a meeting with representatives from the Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, DPW, and MCAA to work out a long term agreement. Second: Joan Dargie. Unanimously approved.**

Joan Dargie and Heather Romeri said they would like to be involved in meeting with representatives of the MCAA and DPW.

Dan Ayotte asks for a soccer schedule change for the town's drop-in adult soccer to co-inside with the MCAA's similar program or move the Wednesday night event to Friday. Ms. Banks indicated she would look into it.

Joan Dargie commented that in the end of year revolving fund transfers money was taken out of the Concession line item (\$3,366.34 to Recreation General) to offset negative balances. She indicated the rental fees should remain in the line item to show how much money has accumulated in case equipment needs to be repaired or replaced. It was discussed that the town owned the equipment and would be responsible for fixing or replacing it.

### **Director's Report**

Revolving Fund Balance is \$39,554.67

Ice Rink: So far a good second season.

Winter Festival went well.

Skate lessons are going well.

Long term vision/ equipment, amenities. Storage building is needed for next year. Volunteers would like a power brush for help with snow removal. The town should look into hiring a rink attendant for next year, similar to the park rangers employed in the summer.

Joan, Liz, and Scott are up for re-appointment in March.

Tim Finan is interested in the open alternate seat on the commission. Walter Smith will submit their names to the selectmen, along with Rick King who is also interested in a vacant alternate seat.

A field fee waiver for softball has been submitted, which has been put on hold pending the outcome of the meeting described above.

Joan Dargie will again run the concession stand with proceeds benefitting the high school music department.

The Daddy/Daughter dance was a great success with more than 350 participants.

The Spring Recreation Guide is now available.

Submitted by,

Walter Smith

Chairman, Recreation Commission